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PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: RECENT ACTIONS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER BODIES OF RELEVANCE TO THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

Recommendations from relevant meetings on women in environment and development

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	4
II.	GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS	4
A.	Australia: Office of the Status of Women	4
B.	Lesotho: Seminar on Awareness Creation - Women and Youth Affairs	5
C.	Rwanda: National Seminar on Environment	6
D.	Sweden: Seminar on Gender and Environment	7
E.	United States of America: Midwest Public Hearing on the Earth Summit	8

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CONTENTS (continued)

		Page
III.	INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS	10
	A. International level	10
	1. Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: "Partners in Life"	10
	2. Women and Children First: Symposium on Poverty and Environmental Degradation	13
	3. Sustainable Development: an Imperative for Environmental Protection	22
	4. Inter-American Consultation on Women and the Environment	23
	B. Regional level	26
	1. Regional preparatory meetings for the Conference	26
	(a) Economic Commission for Africa: Cairo Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda	26
	(b) Economic Commission for Europe: Action for a Common Future	27
	2. Regional preparatory meetings for the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment	28
	(a) African Women's Assembly: Women and Sustainable Development	28
	(b) Arab Women's Assembly	30
	(c) Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly	33
	(d) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Assembly for Women and the Environment	36
	(e) European Region Strategy and Action Plan: Global Assembly of Women and the Environment	38
IV.	NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS	40
	A. World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet	40
	B. General Assembly of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)	47

CONTENTS (continued)

		Page
C.	Council of the International Federation of University Women ..	48
D.	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) World Council 1991	48
E.	International Federation of Business and Professional Women ..	48
F.	Role of Women in Environmentally Sound Programmes	49
G.	Healing the Earth - Women's Strategies for the Environment ...	50

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document was prepared on the basis of Preparatory Committee decision 3/5 on "Women in Environment and Development", in which the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General to ensure that recommendations from relevant meetings undertaken by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations be made available to the Preparatory Committee.

II. GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

2. The following recommendations were submitted in response to a request from the Conference secretariat to Governments to submit recommendations from national meetings relevant to women in environment and development.

A. Australia: Office of the Status of Women

3. The recommendations which follow represent a combination of the conclusions of nine Working Groups, contributions from various sectors, and early findings from national consultations with women in the community undertaken by the National Women's Consultative Council.

4. In acknowledgement of the need for integrated policies and strategies, and for equitable outcomes and processes, the following activities are recommended:

(a) An examination of the health and welfare, education, administration, and household and community sectors in terms of their implications for and contributions to ecologically sustainable development (ESD);

(b) A detailed examination of equity issues, taking account of the impact of ESD recommendations on gender, age, culture, income level and future generation;

(c) Integration of the outcomes with the recommendations of the existing ESD Working Groups into a broader set of recommendations and strategies; and

(d) That women be prominently represented on these bodies, and consulted in the design and implementation of an integrated national ESD policy and strategy.

5. That community well-being and welfare, and the household sector be incorporated as a major focus in the ESD process (for the proposed Environmental Protection Authority and in relation to environmental management in general).

6. That the impact on vulnerable population groups defines what is possible and what is not in developing ESD strategies (setting the limits against which

the precautionary principle will be applied, therefore acting before harm is done).

7. That current research on the inclusion of unpaid work and other areas not formally "valued" in the present system of national accounts be evaluated with a view to broadening national accounting norms.

8. That environmental educational programmes be critically analysed to ensure that their curricula reflect the concerns and skills of both genders. That both women and men be equitably and actively involved in all stages of programme development and presentation.

B. Lesotho: Seminar on Awareness Creation - Women and Youth Affairs

(Maseru, Lesotho, June 1991)

Women's participation in environment in Lesotho

9. Since the early 1970s, Lesotho's people realized the interrelationship between environmental issues, agricultural production, land and population issues. In recognition of this the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs included environmental issues in its seminar on awareness creation in the following areas: population issues; environment; agricultural production; income and employment generation; and Legislation.

General recommendations by youth and women on environment

10. Awareness creation on the importance of maintaining clean surroundings especially around business centres, the home, high density areas, major towns, especially Maseru (the capital city), hospitals, clinics, schools, churches, etc.

11. Special programmes on enabling women and youth to participate in measures to prevent and control soil erosion. The Department of Youth and Women's Affairs has identified three officers to work on environmental issues with youth and women.

12. Awareness creation on environmental degradation.

13. Production of tree seedlings (poplars and fruit trees) and distribution to women's and youth groups.

14. Awareness creation and support for UNICEF's ban on smoking in public places. Most of the taxis and buses have banned smoking.

15. All development programmes should have a positive impact on the environment. The Ministry of the Interior is promoting appropriate technology

with a hope that women will rely on safe energy sources for household energy requirements.

16. Encroachment by human settlements on agricultural land should be checked by law administrators.

The Greenbelt Movement

17. The seminar also recommended strengthening the activities of the Greenbelt Movement. In the Southern districts, a pilot scheme has been started voluntarily by women in order to protect the environment by keeping the land green through tree plantation. This movement was inspired by attending a conference sponsored by the Greenbelt Movement of Kenya.

C. Rwanda: National Seminar on Environment

(Kigali, 2-15 February 1990)

Women, environment and development

18. In order to permit the Rwandan woman to participate more in environmental management, notably by taking advantage of her privileged role in the population-resources-environment balance, the following strategy is proposed:

19. Distribution and promotion of appropriate means to lighten the onerous and multiple tasks of women in both rural and urban areas. These include mills, corn shellers, huskers, pulpers, child-care services, creches.

20. Promotion and distribution of improved cooking stoves, to save both fuel and cooking time.

21. Education and sensitization of Rwandan women in techniques to increase production and family income.

22. Strengthening of, and support for, training dispensed by nutrition centres, and organizations in all sectors of the community including cooking recipe competitions and demonstrations.

23. Increased education and sensitization with regard to family planning.

24. Provision of water supplies.

25. Sensitization of the Rwandan woman to environmental hygiene and good management of water sources and wells.

26. Support for mass literacy programmes for women and promotion of education for girls and women including schooling, fellowships, apprenticeships, and study trips.

27. Encouragement of women's groups, notably by opening up markets for their products (dressmaking, pastries, handicrafts etc.).

Action plan

28. A comprehensive set of activities will be required in the short, medium and long term in order to translate the strategies outlined into action.

29. Nevertheless, the following activities should be given priority: promoting public awareness and the sensitization of women in the rural and urban areas in all fields of environment and development including small-scale industrial production, rational management of water and energy, health, hygiene and sanitation. These activities should include women's movements, groups and cooperatives and promote women's education and emancipation.

30. Activities which require substantial funding include the following:

(a) Research, promotion and enhancement of the availability of appropriate labour-saving technologies aimed at relieving the Rwandan woman of her multiple and heavy workload involved in a variety of time consuming food-processing activities;

(b) Research and application of alternative sources of energy to replace wood and facilitate the distribution of improved cooking stoves in both the rural and urban areas;

(c) Continuation and expansion of literacy programmes for illiterate women; accessibility of didactic material for those who are already literate and the promotion of training for girls and women through scholarships, training courses, internships and study tours;

(d) Improvement and accessibility of family-planning services to facilitate their use by the majority of women;

(e) Promotion of employment-generating opportunities for women beyond agriculture to include brickmaking, livestock breeding, cheesemaking and the dairy industry and food processing.

D. Sweden: Seminar on Gender and Environment

(Swedish International Development Authority,
Stockholm, Sweden, 2-15 February 1990)

31. The necessity of improving communication channels from the local community through intermediate to national and international levels. This should also contain a statement on the necessity of awareness-raising in all parties concerned, not least in national Governments and international donor and environmental organizations.

32. Emphasis on suitable adapted/adaptive research, which defines problems and seeks information, not narrowly as in many agro-forestry models which emphasize single-species strategies, but in ways which do not ignore the gender realities of land-use and land-user livelihoods.

33. The necessity of differentiating motivations for both sustainable and exploitative natural resource use in both the "north" and the "south" - "greed" vs "need". This differentiation is important within countries to highlight gender aspects and links with poverty. Environmental analysis must give adequate attention to the lower levels of social organization, and should disaggregate in terms of costs and benefits to more clearly illustrate equity aspects.

34. Both women's and men's indigenous knowledge should be documented.

35. Human resources development should be undertaken at local level for both women and men if biodiversity of importance to the local communities is to be sustained.

36. Adequate gender analysis has to precede planning and decision-making.

37. Efforts need to be made to make women's contributions visible, especially women's work in subsistence agriculture and the informal sector. (ILO has produced a useful handbook on how to count women's labour.)

38. Gender mapping is an important methodological tool for analysis of women's and men's spaces and the uses of these.

39. Support could be given to organizations with successful approaches to document their history, experiences and plans for the future.

40. Western countries should reflect critically on their own environmental history before developing ideas for policy and planning in other countries.

E. United States of America: Midwest Public Hearing on the Earth Summit

(Council on Environmental Quality, St. Louis, Missouri, 29 June 1991)

Women's issues and the environment

41. We wish to address the Earth Summit issue of "improving the quality of life and human health". Our objective is to present "ideas for changing and strengthening institutions".

42. Women's issues are not separate from environmental issues but part and parcel of a just, caring, and responsible way of living on the earth and relating to all life, including human life. Humans are not a separate order

of beings. We are an integral part of the earth. What we do to the earth and other people we do to ourselves.

43. The world culture at the present time seems to be increasingly inhospitable to the nurturing of the earth and life, including that of human beings - children, women and men. Global and national economic and political forces have been oblivious to the connections between the way we live - the goals we strive for, the amassing of power and wealth for the few, and juggernaut of technological progress, the wanton exploitation of natural and human resources - and the consequences on the environment and peoples' lives. It is no longer possible to live so heedlessly and survive.

Child care

44. Standards for child care facilities should be required throughout the nation. Business needs to do more. Out of 6 million United States companies in 1988, only 4,150 provided child-care assistance to their employees (NCWW - National Commission of Working Women). Corporations need to develop alternative work patterns, i.e. flex-time, job sharing, and family leave. They need to recognize the importance of allowing families to function in a nurturing and stable way. Finally, the federal Government must take the lead in developing and implementing this comprehensive child-care policy. The 1990 Child Care Block Grant (which gave state governments money to subsidize child-care facilities for impoverished families with young children) was a step in the right direction. It is now imperative that Congress reintroduce a Family Leave Bill (such as the one vetoed by President Bush in 1990) that will allow workers time off to care for newborn children without sacrificing their jobs.

Pay equity/comparable worth

45. The federal Government should mandate pay equity through legislative action; efforts should continue on finding a workable method to determine comparable worth.

Education

46. Title IX and sexual harassment laws should be enforced. Cases of infringement in these two areas should be promptly and fairly handled. Funding and recognition of women's sports programmes should be equal.

Women and health care

47. Because private insurers have been unable to provide sufficient health care coverage, the federal Government must become involved. A national health insurance plan must be implemented in order to give all Americans the basic care necessary to sustain life.

Women and violence

48. Affordable counselling and shelter programmes for abused women and their children, education for professionals who could help abused women, and education for the general public are all necessary for preventing the next generation of family violence and the social problems which are its legacy.

Women and politics

49. Legislation to require gender balance on appointive bodies will bring about state policy which reflects a more balanced perspective of societal needs. Further, it will increase the number of women experienced in state government, which should result in a reflective increase in the number of women candidates for public office, the number of women elected to state legislatures and country boards, and the number of women seeking high-level administrative posts.

Women of colour

50. Governments should act more strictly to enforce the anti-discrimination statutes that already exist; special educational and job training programmes should be targeted towards minority women; and affirmative action programmes should be continued in both educational institutions and the business sector.

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

A. International level

1. Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: "Partners in Life"

(UNEP and others, Miami, Florida, USA, 4-8 November 1991)

51. The Global Assembly of Women and the Environment met in Miami, Florida, USA from 4-8 November to address the global issues of water, waste, energy and environmentally friendly systems, products and technologies. During the Assembly, 218 successful grass-roots projects, concerned with these issues were presented by women from all regions of the world. The Global Assembly also received the conclusions of the four regional Assemblies held in Africa, West Asia/Arab World, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

52. The success story presentations showed that women, based on their experience, roles and skills, have specific and valuable contributions to make on issues related to the environment which are being addressed by Governments, United Nations agencies and which will be addressed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. They also demonstrated that the global resolution of environmental issues and the advancement of environmental management requires the involvement of women.

53. The Global Assembly recommends that the following findings be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, to the World Bank and other financing organizations. These perspectives and recommendations should also be widely communicated to institutions and people through the mass media.

Summary statement

54. We expect the heads of Governments to:

- Sign binding conventions on climate change and biodiversity.

- Reach an agreement on principles on the world forests.

- Assure that the Earth Charter includes men and women in the Charter's rights and obligations.

- Approve a programme of action on sustainable development in which all sectors of society play an active role.

- Ensure that resources and the free flow of environmentally friendly technology are available to men and women to implement Agenda 21.

We insist that the perceptions and priorities of women be fully reflected in Agenda 21.

We urge the United Nations and its agencies to support these recommendations.

Findings and recommendations

55. Successful projects at the grass-roots level should lead to more concerted policies and action at the national level. Mechanisms should be established to incorporate the experience, talents and contribution by women into national policies and programmes.

56. Governments and national, regional and international organizations should appoint women at all levels. Women should occupy a significant proportion of the senior positions on panels, boards, parliamentary committees, ministries and public agencies, as well as on delegations to the United Nations, including the Conference, and any organizations established for its follow-up.

57. Candidates for all public offices should be assessed in terms of their position on environmental issues. Women should exercise their democratic rights and responsibilities to elect leaders, especially women, who are responsive to women's needs and concerns about environment and development.

58. Non-governmental organizations should publicize the positions of candidates for public office, in terms of their consistency with the concerns of women and the environment, and should monitor the performance of Governments in placing women in decision-making positions concerned with the environment and taking decisions reflective of women's perspectives.

59. Environmental non-governmental organizations should significantly increase the number of women serving in top-level positions in their organizations.

60. Women should be party to the allocation of funds and resources from national authorities or international lending agencies.

61. The needs and views of women must be incorporated in the establishment of priorities in the management of human and natural resources. Women should also be involved in setting priorities in this action.

62. National and international funding sources for environmental projects should establish procedures for including and consulting women prior to project design or making an investment.

63. Appropriate research to identify the type of potential impact on people's lives of environmental and development projects should be made available to both public and private institutions, including academia.

64. Governments should design policies for environmental management with maximum decentralization of authority and action to the local level. Adequate public resources should be made available to local initiatives, both governmental and non-governmental.

65. A grants programme should be established to support women in environmental management at the local level.

66. Development assistance in support of women's grass-roots efforts for environment and sustainable development should be substantially increased. A significant share of aid portfolios should be earmarked for those efforts. In addition, women should be provided with resources to monitor, evaluate and exchange experiences.

67. International development assistance organizations should improve coordination among programmes dealing with the environment, the advancement of women and development policies.

Energy

68. Governments should evaluate energy policies in terms of total energy systems including the micro-systems managed by women in the home as well as their role as consumers and they should take into account their views and preferences.

69. Priority must be given to reducing dependence on the use of fossil fuels particularly in view of their contribution to global atmospheric change. A greater threat to the survival of the planet is posed by nuclear power and its associated wastes.

Water

70. Governments should give priority in the allocation and protection of water supplies to the needs of people over other uses. Technologies should be developed and disseminated that are inexpensive, universally accessible and easy to install and maintain. Designers of all water supply and sanitation systems should be required to consult women who are the primary users in the home.

Waste

71. Recycling and environmentally sound waste management should be institutionalized by national policies and local programmes. Disposal of toxic wastes anywhere should be strictly regulated.

Environmentally friendly systems

72. Women should use their rights as consumers to influence Governments and the private sector in the development of appropriate technology. Women should also endeavour to take environmentally friendly decisions and actions in their every day lives in their home, in their place of work, and in their local communities.

73. Governments should provide for this protection and careful administration of the community's and natural resources and patrimony, in particular those identified as crucial at the local and global level, such as genetic resources.

2. Women and Children First: Symposium on Poverty and Environmental Degradation

(UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA, Geneva, Switzerland, 27-30 May 1991)

Land resources

74. To ensure women's access to and control over resources, special attention and action are required at the sectoral level.

75. To improve women's access to resources, efforts are needed in education and communication, to change traditional attitudes and stereotypes about women.

76. The legal framework for access to resources - specifically the rights of women to land - needs to be addressed in the Earth Charter, and tied to the rights of women and children.

77. Agricultural policy and practices must be oriented to building upon local knowledge and initiative, and be geared to fulfilling national and regional needs in food self-sufficiency.

Natural resource management and conservation

78. Strengthen the research capacity of local researchers to document and interpret the reality of the contribution to sustainable development of grass-roots women.

79. Build and strengthen the networks of women, non-governmental organizations and researchers deriving their livelihood directly from their ecosystem.

80. Women should be duly recognized as repositories of indigenous knowledge relevant to sustainable livelihoods and environmental preservation. Their capacities to transmit and to effectively utilize this knowledge should be encouraged, enhanced and strengthened.

81. Given their vital roles as binders of society, women should be accorded effective access to and control over the strategic resources required for sustainable livelihood.

82. River basin infrastructures should be managed to support a sustainable and diversified production system, utilizing flood control.

83. Governments should meet obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by assuring women the same rights of access to productive resources as are enjoyed by men.

84. Agricultural research should be aimed at sustainability and at increasing production on rain-fed and flood-recession and rain-fed agricultural fields. At present, agricultural research is focused almost exclusively on irrigation, and on commercial crops, the arena within which most women confront great discrimination.

Deforestation

85. Development programmes and projects need to move away from a sectoral approach towards a more integrated approach. Forestry and natural resource management needs to be integrated not only with other land use management issues, such as agriculture and livestock, but also with human resource development.

86. For forestry development efforts to be effective, they need to be broadly participatory and equitable. A wide variety of strategies are needed to work with women and children.

87. The long-term time-scale of forestry development activities needs to be carefully considered. Trees do not grow overnight. Mobilization of women in

development also needs a long-term commitment. None the less, efforts are also needed to ensure that women derive short-term benefits, such as income, from their participation in forestry development activities.

88. The goal of promoting the participation of women and children in forestry development activities is not participation per se, but ensuring that these participants benefit through increased access to, and control over resources. Cost-benefit analyses need to be disaggregated by gender and age.

89. Forestry development programmes must offer women greater opportunities for paid employment and income-generation. Women forest workers need: greater chances for employment, equal pay for comparable work, on-the-job training and promotion, and minimized health hazards, such as pesticide exposure.

90. Education and training are central in directing forestry to a more participatory approach. Three types of education and training are needed. First, more women need to be trained and employed in forestry at all levels - from grass-roots to international policy-making levels. Second, all foresters, both men and women, need greater training in how to better work with diverse resource user groups, and to reach women, children and men resource users. Third, more focus on environmental education and forestry issues is needed in basic education programmes for children and adults.

91. To ensure a more participatory approach to forestry and natural resource management, more funding is needed. In addition, various financing possibilities for forest conservation need to be assessed in terms of their impact on different social groups, including women and children.

Freshwater resources

92. Women's current role in management of household water supplies, as well as their role as agricultural and fisheries workers is a key factor in the ecology of freshwater resources. Women must be given information concerning preservation of ecologically sensitive water resources and conservation, and they must be included in the decisions affecting their work.

93. Women as agricultural workers are affected by regulations concerning shared water resources and inter-country agreements on international river basins. In cases in which these require the cooperation of producers and workers living in basin areas, education and information should be provided equally to women. National NGOs may be more involved in such initiatives and assist in information dissemination.

94. In all aspects of control of water pollution, including protecting fisheries, development of an integrated pollution control policy, and in research and testing of appropriate techniques for pollution reduction and control, consideration is needed to the special needs of women and children and the potential of their involvement in programmes.

95. Policies related to the maintenance of genetic variability and living aquatic resources along with improving fisheries development are of concern for women and children, particularly in tribal and ethnic minority groups. In many instances, commercial interest may conflict with those which are beneficial to the poorest population, or tribal groups with traditional rights to freshwater resources. In all cases, it is important that women from various ethnic and tribal groups be informed and involved in decisions concerning use of freshwater resources in order to protect their interests and rights and to ensure a fair national policy.

96. Plans for water quality monitoring networks, national laboratories and research on water quality are important actions at the national level. However, in many developing countries, these will not be fully implemented for many years; nor are they able to monitor in remote areas. In their absence, it is important that local community management be encouraged and that women be provided with adequate leadership roles so that they can be equal partners in monitoring and evaluation at the local level.

97. Since women are responsible for water, they should be given adequate training in maintenance of equipment and its agricultural and sanitation uses.

Energy

98. Community discussions which include women should be initiated on possible energy solutions, and priorities formulated which reflect local needs and reduce the workload of women and children and promote better health and time for schooling.

99. Development of communications between voluntary groups and other NGOs, government officers, aid agency representatives, the World Bank, village leaders and local women's networks (as applicable) should be facilitated to define energy problems, provide education about alternatives, and stimulate local awareness.

100. NGO networks can be very positive catalysts to help with the growth of ideas, and to bring these through the correct channels to those authorities who sponsor energy projects. These networks need to be utilized, especially in village communities of societies where women's voices are not given important consideration.

101. Responsibility must be taken at the local level for the initiation, implementation and maintenance of energy projects. This includes active participation of women in all stages of the projects. They are usually recipients of energy supplied and can be as disadvantaged by implementation of inappropriate technology as by no technology at all.

Toxic chemicals

102. Financial and political support should be given for research and action on the impact of toxic and dangerous chemicals on genetics, pre-conception and

health of women and children. Production, transportation and use of such substances must be assessed and monitored and efforts made to promote research on environmentally sound alternatives. Where mechanisms have been established, these must be followed up and strengthened.

Legal instruments and institutions

103. All conventions and legal instruments including the Earth Charter must take into account the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Standards-setting instruments must strengthen the human dimension inherent in achieving sustainable development by ensuring access and entitlement to land and other strategic resources for all peoples and promoting the development of human resources.

104. Serious efforts must be made to end the violence against women and children of homeless, nomadic, indigenous groups and refugees as a result of policies of and the actions by military forces of national Government.

105. Governments must act to remove barriers to free, but responsible, movements of peoples within countries or regions, in consonance with women's and children's reality of a world without frontiers or borders.

United Nation system and international agencies

106. Measures should be implemented to ensure that:

(a) Emphasis on women's and children's issues on environment and development will be strengthened in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and specifically with the leaders at the Earth Summit. Progress should be reported annually to the General Assembly;

(b) All United Nations organizations and other international development agencies should combine efforts to support research and development activities and to prepare public information materials on environment and development with emphasis on women and children. Such information should be disseminated world wide at all levels of societies and Governments, and to all groups;

(c) Mechanisms and existing networks that strengthen the participation of women and children in environment and development issues will be promoted and supported;

(d) An international monitoring organization on women and children for environment and development will be organized to mobilize women world wide and to ensure their integration in environmental and developmentally linked activities.

Environment and development linkages/poverty and environmental degradation

107. Empowerment of women in decision-making must be promoted.

108. Since entitlements to food are decreasing, affecting children and women most, mechanisms to guarantee national and household food security must be developed so that hunger, malnutrition and starvation are eliminated.

109. An effective strategy to tackle problems of environmental degradation simultaneously should begin with a focus not on resources or on production, but on people. Programmatic interventions must consider means for promotion of sustainable livelihoods for women and their children. Women-headed households constitute between a quarter and a third of all households world wide. In some rural areas of developing countries as well as in many refugee situations, adult men are absent much of the time. Therefore, targeted activities to benefit, educate and empower women - especially in areas of technology transfer, income generation, employment and small-scale production - are necessary.

Financial resources

110. A re-evaluation of the global economic system which forces nations to turn away from indigenous practices, marginalizes women and degrades the environment in order to meet balance-of-payment terms is imperative. Structural adjustment policies imposed by multilateral bodies on poor countries must take due consideration of the possible negative impacts of structural adjustment on sustainable livelihoods and on women, children and the environment. Special checklists or analyses that reveal negative impacts must be incorporated into the normal assessments and designs of structural adjustment programmes, and special measures to minimize such negative impacts (including preservation of social welfare programmes that affect health, food security and shelter) should become integral parts of steps required by Governments facing structural adjustment.

111. Establishment of effective institutions for conflict resolution at the national, regional and international levels is now urgent. Participation of substantial numbers of women in these institutions and at deliberations on conflict resolution is critical and must be ensured at all times.

Education and public awareness

112. Women and girls should have first right to all forms of education and training in view of their roles as environmental resource managers and as primary educators of children.

113. Technical education in environmental and natural resource fields must focus on community participation. Technical specialists should be trained to work with a wide variety of target groups, learning how to work with people of different genders, ages, and different types of resource users.

114. More such training must be offered to women. More women extension agents are needed to work with women resource users.

115. More grass-roots, technical and professional women are needed to participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting women. Training and opportunities must be provided to enable women to participate in policy and decision-making processes.

116. Educational systems should be reoriented toward creative curricula which promote sustainable development and protection of the environment. Existing educational materials and curricula should be reviewed for gender bias and relevance to environmental education and health.

117. Educational levels of the girl child and women should be raised, since this has a beneficial effect on implementation of most sustainable development initiatives and improves the status of women. This should entail both formal and non-formal training, including skill development. Environmental education should promote equity between men and women as well as attitudinal changes regarding gender roles in the management and allocation of natural resources.

118. Women must benefit from increased education and training that empowers them to contribute to attainment of local and national development goals. Environmental sensitization and training should be specifically directed to women in recognition of their roles in socializing and educating children. Women also should play leadership and professional roles in organizations, multilateral agencies and governmental entities that have substantial responsibilities for environmental or development issues or programmes.

Health

119. Breastmilk is a natural resource which should be preserved. Women are discouraged from carrying out their essential breastfeeding roles particularly in urban areas. Marketing of breastmilk substitutes should therefore be discouraged and controlled according to international codes. Governments also bear the responsibility for legislation and basic public systems of child care and support for working mothers.

120. Female infanticide, foeticide, neglect and malnutrition of the girl child is a complex issue involving boy-preference cultures and ecological pressures, particularly food shortages. Legal measures, where necessary (regarding, for example, amniocentesis) should not punish women who are victims of their cultures. Every effort should be made to promote educational approaches and development measures to end such practices.

121. Many people, such as those in the Sahel, continue to rely upon medicinal plants to maintain family health. At the same time, desertification, deforestation and environmental degradation are destroying plant species that women use for these important health purposes. Strategies to combat deforestation must have a particular focus on conserving and promoting indigenous medicinal species.

Technology transfer

122. Technology transfer should not only be environmentally sound, but also benign to women and children. Such technology should build on indigenous technology and knowledge, be appropriate, affordable and based on locally available material. Environmentally sound and equitable methods of production and species preservation should be promoted as part of such transfers and local capacity to ensure sustainability be fostered.

123. Women must have access to and control over gender-specific and appropriate technologies to improve the quality of life for themselves and their children, and to enhance their ability to continue primary roles as resource managers, caretakers and producers.

Human settlements

124. Women who have always been urban dwellers as well as women migrants need support and programmes that assist them in improving their housing and environmental sanitation in their homes and neighbourhoods. Measures also are needed to protect women and their families and children from preventable diseases and accidents. Special programmes should be implemented to ensure that urban resources are used to increase income security for women, particularly women who head poor households.

125. Governments and aid agencies must take cognizance of the fact that rural and urban needs are not identical, even though they also must not be perceived to be mutually exclusive. Solutions must therefore address and be tailored to the specific conditions of, and realities faced by, women and children where they are.

126. Urban development planning should encourage adequate services such as housing and health care in the poor urban areas to protect the health and well-being of women and children.

127. Efforts to improve housing, sanitation and access to facilities need to be integrated with efforts to improve the management of resources. In this regard efforts to improve rural housing could be coupled with introduction of improved cooking stoves, planting of fruit trees to improve child nutrition and provide shade around the homestead, etc. Efforts which reduce the workload of women will improve their prospects for employment, engagement in income-generating activities, literacy, and an improved quality of life.

Demographic pressures, consumption patterns and population dynamics

128. Improving the overall status of women and their participation in socio-economic development together with availability of family-planning services and information, and improved child survival rates, should be the basis of a sound and sustainable population policy.

129. If programmes to combat poverty and environmental degradation seek to broaden social participation, particularly of women and youth, these changes would also contribute to lessening of rapid population growth rates. In general, the best approach to tackling issues of rapid population growth where they exist seems to be support of female participation in socio-economic development including paid employment, education and management of natural resources.

130. Access to family-planning services and information should be implemented and ensured as an important right for women and is crucial to the health and well being of women and children. Every effort should be made to implement measures to include men's active participation in family-planning activities.

131. Special needs of refugee women and children must be considered in designing effective developmental and environmental management strategies to which they have contributed. Any strategy, policy or action taken to address the impact of poverty, environment and development on women or children should pay particular attention to refugee women and children.

132. Indigenous peoples, especially women, continue to individually and collectively resist and combat environmental damage to their land and their populations. Measures to halt trends toward decimation of their population and to encourage an increase in declining populations of indigenous peoples must be effectuated.

133. Measures to reverse deteriorating conditions of pastoral and nomadic peoples must be adopted. Rangelands are gradually being removed from nomads' use, some as a result of environmental degradation, some as a result of increasing trends towards privatization, with migration of men from non-productive areas in search of work, women and children are left with herding responsibilities with little or no infrastructure to support their efforts. In this context, common property rights to strategic resources such as land and water should be recognized and protected.

134. National Governments must ensure that vulnerable groups, especially women and children, are protected from the adverse effects of structural adjustment policies.

135. Human energy costs of development and environmental management need careful assessment. Strategies to minimize expenditures of women's and children's energy is vital for enhancing management of natural resources and for promoting sustainable development.

136. Women's organizations and Governments should protest against wasteful consumption patterns.

Popular participation

137. Participants must profit from their efforts by gaining increased access to and control over resources, i.e. land, water, income, skills, trees or other benefits.

138. To broaden participation, efforts need to be made to combat discrimination by race, gender and age.

139. Development efforts must be adapted to respond to diversity on the basis of gender, age, race and ethnicity. Special measures are needed to ensure participation of already over-burdened persons, particularly women who are heads of households.

140. Participation and networking of children and youth, particularly of girls and poor street children, slum dwellers and child labourers should be promoted. Activities such as national workshops, training camps, environmental activities should include these groups.

141. Non-governmental organizations and other organizations working on environmental issues should be officially promoted and strengthened in order to develop a National Women's Movement for Environment and Development.

142. Regulations should be established to ensure that development and environmental protection measures ensure public space for women and children in every community.

3. Sustainable Development: an Imperative for Environmental Protection

(Commonwealth Expert Group Meeting, London, February and June 1991)

Women, environment and development; women and land management

143. We believe it is vital to secure women's and men's traditional rights to resources and resource use; to recognize and formalize these rights, and especially to strengthen women's security of tenure. Where restrictive customs limit the rights of women, ways should be found to minimize these restrictions.

Women as users of forest resources

144. When planning and implementing afforestation programmes and projects, the authorities should make good use of women's knowledge of local ecosystems and the economic uses of trees, and they should also ensure that local women benefit from these types of development.

Women and fisheries

145. The Commonwealth should encourage and support (small aquaculture) programmes, especially in small States. These programmes should be preceded by research that includes the investigation of the fishery activities of women and the compilation of traditional knowledge and management practices of fishery resources.

Supporting women's own initiatives

146. We urge Commonwealth Governments to make a commitment to support women's efforts in resource management in developing countries.

Education and information

147. We believe it imperative to improve relevant education and training opportunities for women. This could be done by providing literacy classes and skills training to them at times, frequencies and locations convenient for them; and to recruit, train and adequately reward more female teachers to serve their own communities.

148. We recommend that Governments train more women as local extension agents, activists and monitors of environmental protection.

149. We recommend that Governments and the international agencies concerned should sponsor and host international exchanges between female project workers and female environmentalists. This would enable them to share their skills and experience in environmental management in different ecological zones, especially in developing countries. Such exchanges, on a South-South, North-South basis might be promoted partly through a bursary scheme.

150. Governments should facilitate the dissemination of information on environmental pollutants and environmental issues to user groups. Women should play a part in defining their own needs for such information. Public education campaigns should be targeted at women, to inform them of the health hazards of agrochemicals and pesticides.

Decision-making and leadership

151. We recommend that Governments, agencies and communities seek to develop mechanisms to facilitate the full participation of local women in all levels of policy-making and decision-making.

4. Inter-American Consultation on Women and the Environment

(Organization of American States, Washington, D.C., United States of America, 15-18 October 1991)

152. Reinforce at every level the leadership role of women geared towards specific actions for surveillance, monitoring and reporting of environmental pollution and deterioration and plundering of natural resources. Develop the capability of reaching solutions to that problem with the agents causing it.

153. Include women at all decision-making levels concerned with the design of policies, programmes and projects aimed at protecting our environment, recognizing their active participation on an equal footing in all the processes of sustainable production, land-use management, conservation of

ecosystems and environmental development. Accordingly, it is a matter of fundamental importance that women participate in all national and regional agencies with responsibilities in the matter and that they bring with them gender awareness and analysis.

154. Review the programmes and concepts of formal and non-formal education, eradicating the current sexist bias so that men and women may work together in an informed manner to improve society as a whole.

155. Promote links between non-governmental, environmental and women's organizations and the State, in order to make a greater impact on the collective conscience and coordinate efforts aimed at finding solutions.

Education, training and consciousness-raising

156. Promote integration of the environment and gender variable in all syllabuses and at the different levels of formal education, highlighting the role of women and their involvement in the use and management of natural resources and the environment.

157. Promote educational campaigns that foster, strengthen and permit participation of women in economic, social and environmental problem-solving.

158. Promote training and consciousness-raising at high policy-making levels as regards aspects relating to conservation, defence of the environment, and on the role of women in those processes.

159. Develop and implement ongoing programmes for women's training in environmental management and leadership, that provide them with skills and aptitudes and recover their knowledge, enabling them mainly to improve their living standards.

Legislation

160. Promote and strengthen the participation of women in the preparation of environmental policies and standards and facilitate their full enjoyment of their rights.

161. Promote the development of national and international legislation to protect the health and safety of women in the work place.

162. Promote national and international legislation to protect women's access to, and control of, such natural resources as the land, water and forests.

Transfer of rational environmental technology

163. Promote research programmes on social and environmentally appropriate technologies that will make it possible to improve women's quality of life and lead the process of change in consumption standards and reverse exploitative attitudes regarding natural resources and the environment.

164. Encourage the establishment of pilot training and education programmes for women in techniques for environmental conservation, improvement, management, and recovery, especially in areas of scarce resources.

Participation

165. Ensure the participation of all areas of society, particularly women's areas, in the design and implementation of programmes, projects and activities to promote the preservation and management of natural resources.

International cooperation

166. Strengthen and expand international cooperation to support activities, programmes and projects that give impetus to the leadership of women in environmental affairs and their social development.

On the community level

167. Sensitize and take advantage of the potential represented by women in the mass media, including advertising, as appropriate conduits for disseminating information to promote/alert the population to environmental issues.

168. Use industrial relations as mechanisms to improve the occupational health and safety of women.

At the institutional level

169. Give support to national machinery assigned responsibility for the protection of the environment so that it is properly located within the administrative hierarchy in order to affect policy.

170. Encourage training of a larger number of women in the environmental sciences as part of this strengthening process.

171. Support and strengthen the expertise of national machineries for the advancement of women to enable them to provide technical assistance on environmental issues when required.

Legal framework

172. Institutionalize the use of environment impact assessments for all proposed development projects, which should also include monitoring of the gender effect.

173. Initiate action by women to lay the legislative basis for a clean air bill and a clean water bill, and for the consolidation of laws relating to the environment.

174. Lobby for the enforcement of extant laws on the environment, e.g. litter laws, and the need for a proper legal infrastructure to protect the environment.

At the political/policy-making level

175. Encourage a greater involvement of women in policy-making and gender sensitivity of women to public policy issues that affect women and that affect the quality of life.

176. Review and revise national policy documents on women to incorporate concerns for the environment.

177. Sensitize women in positions to influence policy to environmental issues as they affect women.

178. Insist that sustainable development is only possible to the degree that development planning addresses the destructive potential of natural disasters and that disaster prevention and mitigation should become a part of public policy.

At the subregional level

179. Develop mechanisms for sharing and networking among countries within subregions.

180. Consider project development on a regional basis in order to attract international funding.

B. Regional level

1. Regional preparatory meetings for the Conference

181. The following preparatory meetings for the Conference held by economic commissions of the United Nations included references to women.

(a) Economic Commission for Africa: Cairo Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda (Cairo, 11-16 July 1991)

182. We believe that with the support of our entire region's population through labour, NGO, women, youth and business organizations and the international community, acting separately and collectively, environmental management for sustainability, both regionally and globally, our Governments' mandates to ensure sustained development for all our people will be achieved.

Activities for achieving our common position on the African environment and development agenda

183. Integrated development, environmental awareness, education, popular participation, enhancement of the role of, and the opportunities for women, youth and NGOs.

184. The role of women in development was not fully appreciated; they were considered only in terms of child support and agricultural activities. Hence the opportunities for them to participate in all the sectors of development were not opened up.

185. In short, there has been little independent participation in environmental activities. In other words, popular participation and the democratization of environmental action including the enhancement of the role of and the opportunities for women, youth and NGOs, has not received the encouragement it deserves from Governments.

(b) Economic Commission for Europe: Action for a Common Future (Bergen, Norway, 8-16 May 1990)

186. Ministerial Declaration included the following commitment: To reaffirm the special role of women in promoting sustainable development and to improve their economic and educational opportunities, especially in developing countries.

2. Regional preparatory meetings for the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment

(a) African Women's Assembly: Women and Sustainable Development

(UNEP Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD), Harare, Zimbabwe, 6-9 February 1989)

Forests and woodlands

187. Programmes should seek the early involvement of women to ensure that their insights and concerns are fully incorporated into the planning and implementation stages.

188. Both rural and urban poor women should be educated about conservation issues.

189. The proper application of technical information should be widely disseminated to the people who need it most. For example, women who are provided with energy-efficient stoves should be shown the correct way to use such equipment.

190. Planners should emphasize the planting of indigenous trees as part of reforestation programmes.

191. SWAGSD should assist individual Governments in creating women's groups consisting of women at all levels to ensure consistency between international policies and programmes and individual country-level activities.

192. Follow-up activities should be carried out on all levels and performance indicators should be set for the evaluation of these actions.

193. SWAGSD should assist African women to impress upon policy-makers the need for joint action with men in population control.

Deserts and arid lands

194. The environmental impacts of development programmes should be assessed and taken into consideration prior to implementation: international mechanisms should be established to facilitate cooperation between Governments, NGOs, and local communities.

195. Recognizing local traditions and the need for multi-purpose trees, Governments should institute policies which define the criteria for species selection.

196. Both indigenous and exotic tree species should be promoted and Governments and NGOs should endeavour to respect and support local traditions that emphasize protection of certain species.

197. A complementary effort in forestry research should be undertaken by both technocrats and local people, particularly women. Governments should provide the necessary infrastructure and facilitate the communication of research results to the local communities.

198. Facilities, resources, and training should be provided to local residents for grazing schemes, and zero grazing should be encouraged.

199. All proposed environmental projects should include a population component; and documentation of both human and animal populations should be carried out.

200. Villagers should be employed as extension workers so they can educate their own communities.

Rivers and lake basins

201. Screen proposed water management schemes for their environmental and social impacts on women.

202. Ensure that the benefits from large-scale water management schemes (such as electricity, improved transportation and opportunities for fishing) accrue to local people.

203. Develop appropriate water management technologies which build upon women's knowledge (hand pumps designed by and for women and training of women in their use and maintenance). An effective delivery system for developed technologies should be put in place.

204. Encourage rural farmers to adopt agricultural practices that conserve natural resources.

205. Enforce laws on water quality.

206. Promote regional cooperation on water management for rivers and lakes shared by multiple countries.

Seas

207. Environmental impact assessment studies should be systematically conducted for industrial, agricultural, and tourism development projects.

208. Governments should enforce national and international laws, texts, and conventions governing the exploitation of marine areas.

209. Drawing on local knowledge, research should be carried out on marine ecosystems and the economic and social activities linked to them.

210. The development of appropriate sound technologies (such as the Kagan oven for smoking fish which reduces fuelwood consumption) should be a research priority.

211. Since traditional fishing is a means by which self-sufficiency can be achieved by coastal and island populations, it should be promoted.

212. International and national legislation should be drafted and enacted to prevent the dumping of toxic wastes on African coasts.

(b) Arab Women's Assembly

(UNEP Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD), Tunis, 6-10 February 1990)

(i) Role of Arab women in environmental education and information

Formal education and training

213. Training programmes using different methods for the dissemination of environmental information to women should be developed. Such programmes should include knowledge, values and norms focusing on increased awareness among both rural and urban communities and should incorporate the recommendations adopted by the Cairo meeting of Arab Ministers of the Environment, held in October 1989.

Informal education

214. Mobile environmental awareness units for the dissemination of environmental information should be established, especially for use in rural areas.

Curricula

215. Environmental education curricula should be developed for all levels of education, including teacher training institutions.

Higher education

216. Universities and institutions of higher learning should be encouraged to establish lectureships and faculty teaching positions in environmental and natural resources management as well as gender-related aspects of these disciplines.

Community-based education

217. Community-based education, especially those programmes focusing on adult education, should be emphasized. Women's literacy programmes should be reinforced to ensure that Arab women can assume their full responsibility for environmental protection.

Traditional knowledge

218. Traditional knowledge, information on social heritage, indigenous knowledge, practices and experience should form an integral part of national environmental education programmes.

Role of media

219. Different media channels should be fully utilized in order to increase national and regional awareness and understanding of environmental issues. National radio broadcasting and TV networks should be encouraged to include environmental material in their programming, especially those ones on the Arabsat network.

Research

220. Research should take place in Arab universities and other research institutions on the role of women in environmental problem solving. In particular, women should be encouraged to participate in and conduct such research.

Data resources

221. Data resources available at the United Nations and other Arab organizations (for example, the League of Arab States and ALECSO) should be fully utilized. Particular emphasis should be placed on augmenting these databases with information of particular relevance to women and environment.

Funding and scholarships

222. Arab Governments should be encouraged to allot funds for scholarships that will enable women to specialize in different environmental fields as well as to expand on existing research projects on women's role in environmental protection.

International cooperation

223. Arab countries should cooperate among themselves and with international organizations in translating and publishing literature and other relevant environmental material into Arabic.

(ii) Role of women in the preservation of resources, food security and self-sufficiency

Increasing women's participation

224. Increasing women's participation in different social sectors, including environmental management, is necessary to encourage the dissemination of knowledge about the role of women to all sectors of society, especially policy makers. This will ensure that women's concerns are included in planning and decision-making.

Education and training

225. Special attention should be given to rural women's education and training in order to enable them to develop and advance traditional methods of food production and preservation. Training women in the production, distribution and marketing of food and agricultural resources is also essential to encourage wise natural resource use and environmental management.

Extension services

226. Extension services to both rural men and women should be supported. Extensive use should be made of female agricultural extension workers. These workers are best qualified to help impart the attitudes and practices necessary for sound and productive participation as well as the overall development of the village and village environment.

Field research

227. Women's organizations should carry out field studies on traditional methods of food preservation, as well as on sound hygienic food production and preparation methods.

Environmentally benign traditions

228. Training programmes should emphasize positive rural traditions. Both practitioners and policy makers should examine and implement novel and environmentally benign ways of processing and preserving food. Also, energy-saving methods and traditional processes that do not sacrifice hygiene and health should be considered. Considerable effort should be put into popularizing these environmentally benign methods.

(iii) Role of women in environment protection through governmental and non-governmental organizations

Increased policy- and decision-making roles for women

229. Governments should encourage the participation of women in all sectors, especially the policy and decision-making sectors such as the legislative and executive bodies. In particular, government policies should support organizations concerned with environmental and population problems.

Women's organizations

230. Governments should recognize the importance of women's organizations as having considerable potential in environmental management and as effective means of advancing their roles. Where such organizations do not already exist their formation should be encouraged. Where they exist, Governments should facilitate their activities. They should be encouraged to become involved in environmental education programmes.

Coordination among women's non-governmental organizations

231. The work carried out by Arab non-governmental organizations should be coordinated and a network of international non-governmental organizations involved in environmental protection encouraged.

Small-scale projects

232. Governments should design and implement small-scale projects involving women, especially focusing on water, agricultural resources, the substitution of energy and the use of environmentally harmless products and processes.

International cooperation

233. Governments and practitioners involved in this field should encourage international cooperation among non-governmental organizations, and foster the creation of an Arab and international network of such organizations.

Financial and technical support

234. Regional and international organizations are requested to provide technical and financial support to non-governmental organizations, particularly women's environmental organizations.

(c) Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly

(UNEP Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD), Bangkok, 11-15 March 1991)

Regional strategy to promote the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development information/education

235. States, national and international organizations (governmental and non-governmental) and the private sector should promote both formal and non-formal education to enhance awareness of the environment, respect for creation and nature, gender equality, and motivate people's participation in protection of the environment and eliminating gender discrimination. They should take account of traditional ecological practices which respect the environment. This is closely linked with the elevation of female literacy, including legal literacy and scientific literacy. The educational process should be directed at recognition of ecological values, integration of environmental components in the subjects taught and a culture sensitive to gender equality. Specific training of environmental skills for livelihood opportunities should be promoted.

236. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should support programmes to train people's representatives, teachers, especially at the primary level and officials on environmental and women's issues. They should encourage women planners and students at the higher level of education to become more involved in science and the environment.

237. The mass media should be utilized effectively in awareness raising, education and information dissemination to a broad public in environmental promotion, preservation and protection and women's development.

238. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should encourage the preparation of appropriate educational materials on environmental and gender issues, including audio-visuals, songs, ,plays, puppets, etc. These should be packaged and disseminated to a wide range of groups, including families, mass media, religious organizations, NGOs and government officers.

239. Educational authorities should survey the existing materials on environmental and gender issues and adapt them for use among different groups. This entails multi-lingual and multi-modal educational materials catering to both literate and illiterate groups in rural and urban areas.

240. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should provide assistance for participatory action research concerning women and the environment and appropriate technology to reduce women's workload, as part of project planning and implementation, so as to identify needs and prepare appropriate responses.

241. Educational authorities should provide extensive consumer education in rural and other areas to emphasize the need to live within the limits of natural growth, in matters of concern to women and the environment.

242. Educational programmes should be more conscious of the time constraints facing women and should be organized so as to suit the time when women are free to participate.

Advocacy and participation

243. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should promote dialogue between leaders at all levels of the community and interlink with the population so as to advocate sensitivity to, and respect for, environmental and gender issues. This should include state commitment to appropriate population planning for family welfare.

244. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should support community organizations with a view to lobbying for more effective laws and policies in principle and in practice.

245. The private sector should recognize its responsibility to the environment more extensively. This includes social responsibility not only to the natural environment but also to the human resources in the vicinity whose needs interrelate with employment opportunities.

246. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should ensure adequate representation of women at all levels of the decision-making process. This is linked with the need for more decentralization and greater people's participation.

247. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should establish fora and mechanisms for consulting women and others affected by development projects. These include local committees, public inquiries, consultation groups, etc. to which women's access should be promoted.

248. States should ensure that there is a national machinery on environmental protection and women's affairs, supported by effective policies and budgets for implementation purposes.

249. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should promote involvement and leadership of committed people and entities at all levels in respect of environmental management and gender equality.

250. Women's organizations at the national and regional levels should incorporate more concretely environmental issues in their work. Conversely, environmental organization should take greater account of gender issues.

Policy/legislation

251. States should introduce legislation and policies to encourage participation by women in development planning and the decision-making process at all levels. There should be emphasis on effective law enforcement with sanctions and incentives where necessary. Clean water supply and sound water resources management should be accorded priority in national inputs concerning the environment.

252. States should assess the impact of existing legislation and policies on environmental protection and management and gender equality. They should introduce reforms, where necessary, and ensure that there are effective laws and policies on consumer protection, natural resource conservation, incentives for use of bio-degradable products, consultations at the local level prior to decision-making, community participation and non-discrimination.

253. Quality control of products should be strictly enforced at the national and transnational levels so as to prevent dangers to the population and environment. Different environmental standards are required to reflect the different needs and characteristics of women.

254. An integrated approach representing the inter-sectoral concerns of women and the environment should be promoted. This implies that projects should be comprehensive in approach, catering not only to environmental protection, but also to the livelihood needs of women and their families. They should promote attitudinal changes concerning traditional gender roles, including the need for equitable apportionment of work.

Technology/impact assessment

255. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should assist in the identification and/or creation of appropriate and benign technology, and its research, development and transfer, so as to minimize

negative impact on women and the environment. This includes assessment of existing indigenous technology which can be adapted to modern uses and research to identify needs for alternative fuel and energy sources. The criteria for appropriateness include availability, affordability, acceptability and accessibility.

256. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should evolve standards for environmental impact assessment before projects are undertaken as well as after they are undertaken, with consultation of the people affected. Assessment of the social impact should be emphasized, with particular concern for the effect of projects on women's development on a long-term basis. Women and other groups directly affected by such projects should participate in the assessment and have access to the results with correlative compensation for damage incurred.

Financial/other support

257. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should allocate sufficient funds to women's development and environmental protection, and strengthen self-reliance on the part of the community. These should be decentralized to facilitate support for village development funds, revolving funds and initiatives at the local level to advance women's development and environmental protection.

258. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should commit funding to the identification and development of appropriate and benign technology. A key area needing funding is that of clean water supply.

259. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should provide more resources to promote female literacy and participation in education and development programmes. These may be complemented by social subsidies to help their families and ensure that the economic difficulties at home do not impede women's access to development activities.

260. States, national and international organizations and the private sector should recognize the importance of the multiplier effect of development personnel, such as project trainers and trainees, who can help to catalyze and pave the way for change. Financial and other support should be rendered so as to broaden the impact of their work.

(d) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Assembly for Women and the Environment

(UNEP Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD), Quito, 19-22 March 1991)

Women and natural resources

261. The pivotal issues which unite the themes of women and the environment are the controversial assumptions upon which the development model is built.

From this perspective, this Regional Assembly proposes an integral change which recognizes the interdependency between all forms of life on this planet and which equally respects the individual, society, politics, economy and ecology.

262. Stemming from this change in axiomatic assumptions, the new model would evolve a new ethic permitting the development of harmonious relations between human beings and natural environments, based on respect, solidarity and the recognition of social and natural limitation.

263. The deterioration of the environment has accentuated the increase in social marginality and has affected female populations. As a result, it is vital to take measures that not only recognize the value of female contribution in all spheres of society, but also protect the socially underprivileged.

264. Among the methods for improving the use of resources, it has been proposed that pressure be brought to bear on the responsible institutions for the creation and adoption of coherent macro-politics, and that efforts be concentrated on small-scale, sustainable development projects which include consultation and support.

265. Projects to be executed must respect the national sovereignty of each country of the region, as well as the rights of biodiversity and natural heritage.

266. With respect to the exchange of the external debt for natural resource conservation (debt for nature swaps), it is necessary that the methods and requirements be made well-known to the Latin American and Caribbean communities. It would also be necessary to hold public regional and local forums for the entire population to ensure that all decisions are democratic.

267. It is also recommended that the indicators for determining women's benefit from the programmes established during the Women's Decade be retained; that small-scale project objectives be coordinated with women's projects; that assistance be given to women's projects together with greater emphasis on the roles of women in middle- and high-level decision-making positions; and that gender components be introduced in all training and education in all sustainable development projects.

268. Before their execution, development projects must be preceded by an information process through public forums, referendums, plebiscites or other means of public participation. Moreover, they must include studies on environmental impact, and the specific legislative apparatus must be made public using a variety of communication methods.

Women and human settlements

269. This Assembly proposes public petitions and the participation of social movements, among which include women's and environmental groups, towards the

application of a clean environmental policy. This policy would incorporate inexpensive and successful alternatives that have low environmental impact, respond to the basic needs of the population and allow the participation of women in the decision-making process.

Women's organizations and movements

270. Increased female participation in the management of environment requires the application of parallel mechanisms towards change in the present sexual division of labour, which has impeded positive female participation in the public sector.

Role of the State

271. The need to redefine the role of the State has also been recognized.

272. In addition to the traditional functions such as health, education and housing, the State must assume responsibility for programmes of common welfare such as environmental quality control, conservation of ecosystems, natural resource management, urban planning and industrial installations as well as the development of alternative energy sources.

273. The State should perform new functions which would include the regulation of private enterprise and the development and management of socially relevant environmental alternatives in addition to guaranteeing the promotion of laws and other aspects of social norms to help overcome inequalities between genders, races and cultures.

274. Both women's and environmental organizations should consider this new form of State in order to advance forms of participation and control in society with the goal of promoting sustainable development.

275. As the life source of these policies, women's environmental organizations must generate proposals and look for other means to participate in order to ensure both the acceptance and applicable integration of these policies.

(e) European Region Strategy and Action Plan: Global Assembly of Women and the Environment

(UNEP and others, Miami, Florida, United States of America, 4-8 November 1991)

276. At the Global Assembly, strategic and action plans were presented by all regions. As there were no regional preparatory meetings or related events in Europe, extracts from the European Region Strategy and Action Plan are presented below.

Preamble

277. We, women of the European region, commit ourselves towards healthy and unwasteful lifestyles and economies, in which basic human needs are met.

278. We express our deep concern about the ongoing damage to human beings and the destruction of their environment, as a result of which children are born handicapped, ecological diseases are increasing and life expectancy and fertility are decreasing. Maldevelopment, over-consumption and arms production are responsible for these crises. So, people often lose sight of the real vital values and priorities.

279. We insist that the first priorities of the development process are the physical and spiritual health of human beings, and at the same time, preserving and restoring our natural environment.

280. We demand constitutional rights for people to live in a healthy environment. We oppose production, proliferation and use of arms. We refuse nuclear power and support energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy. We express our solidarity with other women around the globe, struggling for a healthy life and planet.

281. Finally, we promote the development of a World Strategy for Survival. We will accomplish this by:

(a) Ensuring people's full rights to a healthy environment and to participate in decisions affecting their environments, health and well being, and to ensure, enforce and revitalize legal remedies and redress;

(b) Allocation of public funds and other resources for research, education and action towards the prevention of conflicts and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes at local, regional and international levels;

(c) Adequate funding for initiatives which contribute to an unwasteful lifestyle in Europe;

(d) Analysing the inter-linkages between the sectors and actors in our development process and the relationships between environmental, social and economic aspects, taking into account both scientific expertise and practical experiences. And based on this, the redefinition of concepts of development, economy and progress;

(e) Showing that alternative, including indigenous solutions and lifestyles are effective, economically feasible and ecologically sustainable. In this respect, pilot projects play a crucial role and should be supported;

(f) Introduction and promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns, thereby preventing excessive, exploitative or polluting practices;

(g) Continuous monitoring and documentation of human, animal and plant health and making such information accessible to all;

(h) Information exchange, translation in understandable language and networking, in formal and informal ways, through:

(i) Women's environmental and development organizations and networks (existing and new ones);

(ii) Exchange of scientific information among women and make this information accessible for women at the grass-roots level;

(iii) The organization of a regional European meeting of women focusing on our life and survival, and challenging economic growth. This meeting will take place at the end of 1992, will have a balanced representation from all different regions from Europe, have an inclusive character and take place in a human, environmentally and culturally (languages) friendly environment.

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

A. World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet

(International Policy Action Committee/Women's Environment and Development Organization, Miami, Florida, 8-12 November 1991)

282. People everywhere are frightened by evidence of the deterioration of the life-giving systems of the Earth. We, women of many nations, have come together to voice our concern for the health and well-being of our living planet and all its life forms.

Diversity and solidarity

283. We will promote the principles of the Action Agenda and encourage people everywhere to use political and economic means to make its recommendations a reality.

284. We will protect all those who uphold these principles from forces which would silence their voices or stand in the way of environmental and social justice.

285. We will demand full and equal participation for women and men in public policy analyses, government, decision-making, implementation, administration and funding at international, national and community levels.

286. We urge each other to seek to achieve a critical mass in government and non-governmental policy-making leadership positions, adopting the 60-40 formula (no more than 60 per cent or not less than 40 per cent of either sex) as a guide to our empowerment.

287. We demand that all Governments comply with the requirements of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

288. We will organize a committee to publicize, coordinate and assist women's action in issuing report cards on progress towards a healthy community, village, region or nation.

Debt and trade

289. We demand an immediate official debt forgiveness.

290. We will work for cancellation of commercial debt via mechanisms equivalent to corporate bankruptcy law.

291. We will cease to do business with banks which refuse to reschedule debt repayments of nations of the South.

292. We will oppose those debts for nature exchanges (swaps) which threaten sovereignty, indigenous peoples rights to land and self-determination and which are not subject to wide public debate.

293. We will hold personally accountable those who borrow in the name of their people, for the social and environmental consequences of those loans.

294. We call for the rejection of structural adjustment policies (SAPs) which shift the responsibilities of basic social services from Governments to women without compensation or assistance.

295. We call for the dismantling of all unfair protective trade measures used by the North against the South.

296. We call for the renegotiation of terms of trade that will ensure an equitable relationship between the price of raw materials and prices of manufactured goods.

297. We suggest that historic audits of nation States (from 1945 onward) be conducted to determine the net beneficiaries of natural resource exploitation, an assessment which would serve as the basis to cancel current debt.

Universal code of ethics

298. We will work for the adoption of an International Code of Environmental Conduct for business and industry, for Governments, for United Nations agencies and for non-governmental organizations which will include regulations on bio-technical genetic engineering.

299. We will organize monitoring systems that will hold institutions and States accountable for their actions, products and policies.

300. We call for a reappraisal of national income accounts to reflect the balance between constructive and destructive production.

301. We totally oppose environmental accounting and the commodification of "free gifts of Nature".

302. We demand time use studies of women's work (household, cottage industries, subsistence agriculture, child care, elder care, volunteer community service).

303. We require governments, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and lending agencies to establish environmental audits with which every proposal must comply before implementation of loan.

304. We will endorse new principles of international law including strict liability for environmental harms and non-adversarial dispute resolution mechanism to compensate victims.

Land rights and food security

305. We will call on the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organizations to cease discriminating practices which limit women's access to land and other resources, to increase allocation of resources which enhance food security and provide appropriate technologies which reduce women's work.

306. We will strive to create awareness about the environmental impact of land use technologies guided by immediate profit at the cost of long-term sustainability and productivity.

307. We will search for ways to strengthen agricultural research and indigenous foods and conservation of local crop varieties.

Biotechnology and biodiversity

308. We insist that the convention on biological diversity address the risks of biotechnology as well as the conservation of species.

309. We call for immediate and direct regulation of research and development in biotechnology.

310. We recommend that the testing and release of organisms be done only in the country of origin, and that biotechnology products which are not yet approved or which are restricted in the country of origin be prohibited from sale elsewhere.

311. We recommend that there be no patenting of life forms to protect against the commercial exploitation of the genetic resources of the South.

312. We will work for a ban on bovine growth hormone (BGH) and a boycott of milk products with BGH.

313. We recommend that new technologies be approved not only on the basis of efficacy and safety, but also their social and economic impacts.

314. We demand that information on the risks of biotechnology be widely available in clear, layperson's language.

315. We will support indigenous people in their efforts to protect their natural environments.

Information and education

316. We invite the media to join with us in promoting the principles of this Action Agenda.

317. We demand that the United Nations monitor all activities of Governments which threaten the environment, including space and ocean probing, and make information about such activities known to the world community.

318. We will work to create and strengthen formal and informal information systems and exchange that adhere to the principles of openness and inclusiveness, giving voice to the majority of citizens, of reporting on violations of human and environmental rights.

319. We recommend that all countries offer environmental education at the primary and secondary levels, including ecology, consumer education and permaculture.

320. We will promote environmental ethics education in our schools and in informal learning setting with the purpose of promoting harmony between all living systems and solidarity among peoples.

321. We will strongly support the establishment of a non-governmental organization whose mandate and operation on environmental emergencies and environmental rights would be similar to those of Amnesty International.

Women, militarism and the environment

322. We demand nuclear weapons be dismantled and destroyed, that nuclear testing cease immediately and that a global nuclear test ban treaty be negotiated and ratified by all nations.

323. We demand that space activities and supersonic flight which threatens the ozone layer or releases carbon dioxide cease.

324. We urge an immediate 50 per cent reduction in military spending.

325. We demand creation of national civilian commissions with 50 per cent membership of women which would open to public scrutiny all military activities, expenditures, and research and development.

326. We demand that national armies be converted into environmental protection corps which would monitor and repair damage to natural systems, including clean-up of the military bases and nuclear and toxic wastes, and be available to assist citizens in times of natural and man-made disasters.

327. We condemn Governments that turn their armies against their citizens, leading millions of individuals to become refugees and displaced persons.

328. We will educate our daughters and sons to shun military service if it is in the service of Governments which use military power to exploit the resources of people of other nations.

Science and technology

329. We urge the marriage of ethical values with scientific investigation and use, and the development of criteria for all technologies concerning their appropriateness for both women and the environment.

330. We demand that all technology transfer should be appropriate and sustainable with special attention paid to long-term costs and benefits for people and the environment.

331. We will support and promote communications strategies for disseminating information on appropriate and inappropriate technologies to women world wide.

332. We will urge support for more women and girls to enter the scientific disciplines, including emerging environmental sciences.

333. We demand resources be made available for research and development of appropriate technologies and training for women.

334. We urge the United Nations and Governments to create rural and urban training centres of excellence, North and South, which will serve to disseminate environmentally friendly technologies.

Consumer ethics and action

335. We will boycott industries whose practices or products anywhere in the world are harmful to the environment or to health.

336. We will promote recycling, reduce consumption of all forms and purchase only ecologically friendly products.

337. We will engage in campaigns supporting investment in environmentally sound productive activities.

338. We will reduce per capita energy use by promoting energy efficient forms of mass transportation and technologies, and research, development and funding of alternative energy sources.

339. We oppose uranium mining and continued use of nuclear power and condemn the export dumping of nuclear and other toxic wastes in poor nations and poor areas within industrialized nations.

340. We call for the creation of a permanent United Nations environmental commission, to serve as ombudsperson, receive individual complaints, monitor compliance and enforce principles of an international code of environmental ethics.

341. Require all States and corporations who produce toxic chemical agents to dispose of their toxic wastes within their own borders.

Population, women's rights and health

342. We condemn any attempt to deprive women of reproductive freedom or the knowledge to exercise that freedom.

343. We demand women-centred, women-managed comprehensive reproductive health-care and family planning, including the right to prenatal care, safe and legal voluntary contraceptives and abortion (fertility regulation).

344. We urge Governments, multilateral and donor agencies to increase investment in comprehensive reproductive health services and to include men as beneficiaries of family planning education and services.

345. We demand that all Governments systematically alert their citizens to the danger of AIDS and provide them with the information on how to avoid contamination.

346. Realizing that women and children are particularly vulnerable to cancer-causing toxic chemicals, radiation and nuclear wastes:

(a) We demand that research be undertaken on women's and children's susceptibility to cancer causing agents and that remedial action be taken to eliminate such agents from all environments;

(b) We ask the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, national Governments, public health groups and corporations to increase efforts to eliminate environmental occupational hazards, in factories, offices and on the land.

Recommendations to the agencies of the United Nations

347. Governments should increase their contribution to and support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which assists Governments in their assessment of environmental quality or damage, undertakes studies, training and environmental major management tasks. Its budget should be considerably increased, to triple its current $40 million.

348. We recommend that UNEP expands its efforts to benefit from the knowledge and experience of female staff members, consultants and its Senior Women's Advisory Group by actively pursuing a policy of gender balance in policy making.

349. Donor countries should increase their contributions to UNIFEM, the only multilateral fund established specifically to increase the flow of development resources in women in low income countries, so as to reach a level of $150 million annually by the year 2000. These funds are essential if UNIFEM is to enhance its catalytic role in providing resources and empowerment to poor women.

350. We urge all United Nations agencies to increase their commitment to integrating women's perspectives at all levels and in all programmes and policies.

Conference-specific

351. We will lobby our national Governments to include women and representatives of indigenous peoples and grass-roots organizations in their Conference delegations.

352. We will press all Conference participants to discuss, adopt and implement our recommendations.

353. We will distribute this Action Agenda widely to our Governments, to non-governmental organizations, to multilateral agencies, business and industrial leaders and to the formal and informal networks we maintain.

354. We will make subsequent recommendations regarding governmental and non-governmental contributions to the Conference.

355. We call on world leaders attending the 1992 Earth Summit to sign a global climate change convention, with industrialized countries making a minimum commitment to a 20 per cent reduction of carbon dioxide emission by the year 2000.

356. We submit these recommendations as a basic guide to our efforts to enhance environmental quality from now on and into the twenty-first century.

Declaration of the Tribunal

357. The Declaration of the Tribunal of the Miami World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet included specific proposals as set out below.

358. States should recognize women's role as managers and conservers of natural resources and should empower women in the decision making process as equal partners.

359. States should act positively to implement fully articles 7 and 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (political participation, international representation). They should act immediately to increase the number of decision makers at all levels and especially in relation to sustainable development.

360. States should act positively to implement fully article 14 of the Convention (rural women) to ensure that women participate in and benefit from rural development on the basis of equality of men and women, and in particular, that they have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes. They must also be assured of access to land use and ownership, education and health services.

361. Development and aid funding should be allocated to women's projects. Women should participate in equal terms and at all levels in decisions relating to development.

362. Article 16.1.e. of the Convention (granting the equal right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children and to have access to the information, education and means to exercise these rights).

363. Women in positions of power and influence should assert the feminist perspective on development and environmental issues.

364. Women by acting together, by organizing cooperatives and by managing credit and financial institutions can help change policy, protect the environment, improve their standards of living and challenge current economic analysis.

365. It is our opinion that more should be done to ensure that women are involved in developing and implementing policies for environmental protection and development. To this end, the programmes for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should include areas which are specifically devoted to enhancing women's initiatives and activities for sustainable development.

B. General Assembly of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

(Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990)

366. The General Assembly urged the Director General (IUCN) in the immediate future, to ensure that IUCN's objectives in developing its Women and Natural Resource Management Programme are reflected in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that the Conference gives due consideration to ways in which women can participate in deliberations about and be enabled to play an effective part in natural resource management.

367. The General Assembly urged all governments and development agencies, and IUCN and its members to act as catalytic agents in empowering women to play an effective role in natural resource conservation and sustainable development at all levels, by policies and programmes that provide them with the necessary information for understanding.

C. Council of the International Federation of University Women

(Geneva, 30 August-2 September 1991)

368. The following recommendation on environment was proposed: that national federations and associations be encouraged to call on their own Governments to develop or strengthen and implement national and local energy strategies in collaboration with the women consumers, particularly:

(a) Policies for alternative, affordable energy sources for household use;

(b) Management programmes for fuel wood and other energy resources with women as major participants; and

(c) Training programmes for women in modern forms of resource management.

D. Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) World Council 1991

369. The following resolution was adopted: be it resolved that the World YWCA and its affiliated associations set examples of non-polluting consumption and behaviour, implement the appropriate measures to achieve a sustainable society, and actively work towards raising political awareness of these issues.

E. International Federation of Business and Professional Women

(Nairobi, 4-8 November 1991)

370. Policies for the future:

(a) Set a good example;

(b) Start thinking of the environment in your home;

(c) Start thinking of the environment in your workplace;

(d) Ensure there is more information in schools about the environment;

(e) Make your children understand and appreciate nature;

(f) Make your politicians take their responsibilities;

(g) Participate in debates about our environment.

371. Guidelines to affiliates:

(a) Start study groups and workshops in Federation clubs;

(b) Invite influential people to debates;

(c) Share experiences and information from your countries in articles in "Widening Horizons";

(d) Discuss questions world wide about the environment in "Widening Horizons";

(e) Write articles about environment and development in your local newspapers;

(f) Start prizewinning contests about measures taken to protect our environment.

F. Role of Women in Environmentally Sound Programmes

(Pre-Conference Workshop, Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Thailand, 1-3 November 1991)

372. The Association should:

(a) Communicate information and knowledge locally on environmental problems at the grass-roots level involving women and communities;

(b) Support environmental education by creating public awareness in the school curriculum, non-formal education at all levels, including literacy programmes;

(c) Support consumer education for environmentally sound programmes;

(d) Explore the utilization of the media for educating the public and provide audio-visual aids at the local level;

(e) Work with other organizations on environmentally sound programmes by hosting meetings and round-table discussions;

(f) Encourage members to urge the government to enact and implement environmental legislation;

(g) Assist women at the local level in communicating with the appropriate authorities concerning environmentally sound programmes and other related projects;

(h) Promote awareness programmes and give awards for outstanding environmentally sound programmes;

(i) Ensure that basic needs are met at the local level to have an integrated approach to successful environmentally sound programmes and projects for women;

(j) Circulate information from the Association's International Bulletin on activities in environmentally sound programmes.

373. Chapters of the Association should:

(a) Have 4 R's campaign (reduce, reuse, recycle and replace with other materials);

(b) Have a resource person concerned with environmentally sound programmes and their implementation;

(c) Organize follow-up training workshops for resource persons concerned with environmentally sound programmes;

(d) Write letters of protest concerning nuclear testing and dumping in the Pacific and elsewhere. The Association should reiterate at the United Nations its stand against nuclear testing;

(e) Support the concept of the global family.

G. Healing the Earth - Women's Strategies for the Environment

(United Nations Association in Canada,
Vancouver, Canada, 17-20 May 1991)

Gender and empowerment

374. We must recognize and eradicate dependencies internal to dominating societies. Empowering comes from within a people and their community and cannot be imposed from "outside". We denounce the violation of human rights and as women take responsibility and commit ourselves to support other women. We endorse the Special resolution of the Women's Commission to the First Continental Indigenous Conference in Quito, Ecuador in July 1990.

375. We recognize that instituting change will require moving away from a materialistic consumer oriented value system and beginning an internal healing process which acknowledges our interdependence with the earth. Empowerment comes through action.

376. Social justice and political liberation will bring about the resolutions of basic human needs, environmental concerns and equality for women. Working towards the attainment of self-sufficiency and democracy will require recognizing and supporting organizations that truly represent, among others, indigenous; disables; rural and urban women.

Militarism

377. Militarism and disarmament must be on the agenda for the Conference.

378. Public subsidization of military manufacturing, its waste disposal, testing, sale, deployment and use is the single most destructive force to the environment. War is a major factor depleting agricultural land and is the single largest generator of refugees and human misery. Understanding the implications of global warming, we call upon the community of nations to lend all necessary assistance to immediately extinguish the oil fires burning in Kuwait.

379. We call for the implementation of an international arms registry and an international toxic waste registry citing manufacturer and state of origin of all arm sales and toxic waste.

380. We call for the holding of an international conference to devise ways to achieve effective non-violent resolutions to conflict.

381. And we recognize that institutionalized violence against women, including wife battering, is destructive to the environment, the community and the condition of children. We demand that it be stopped.

Community development

382. Internationally, the wealthy consume the overwhelming majority of the world's agricultural extracted and harvested resources. Predominantly tied international development assistance does not redress the international cash flow to the wealthier industrialized countries. Women's work and nature are treated as valueless expendable commodities. Recognizing past practices, communities, and particularly women, must be compensated with financial resources so that they can take primary responsibility for defining what development means in their local context. In order to conserve and protect the environment communities must be involved in the decisions that affect among others, local forestry, agriculture, education, community, infrastructure and primary health care.

383. We call upon the Conference to establish a forum to implement a right to know policy as a means to control the transnational shipment of environmentally hazardous materials and technology.

Education

384. Beginning with the children, bring a women's perspective to a sustainable future requires the restoring, respect and revering the interconnectedness of all life. Women in particular need equal opportunity and access to education. Environmental issues need to be learned both in theory in the educational system and in practice in the natural world. We need to learn from land-based cultures the world over by respecting their philosophy, history, culture, laws and techniques in sharing knowledge.